

REMARKS

As an initial matter, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for approving the Drawings filed November 17, 2003, acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority and receipt of the priority document, and considering the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 17, 2004.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended, and claims 3-5 are newly added. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a reinforcement structure for a front-end module carrier. The reinforcement structure of the present invention includes an upper member having a hood latch, a vertical member connected to the upper member, and a lower member fixed to the vertical member. When a vertical upward load is applied to the hood latch, the vertical load is transmitted to the upper member, and then transmitted to the lower member through the vertical member. In order to improve the rigidity of the lower member against the vertical load, the lower member of the present invention has a downwardly curved shape. The lower member also bends forwardly from the reinforcement structure in order to absorb shock applied to the front side of the carrier, thereby preventing transmission of the shock to internal components of the carrier.

In the Office Action of November 3, 2004, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Maj et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,357,821). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Maj relates to a lamp can and radiator support assembly. Maj's radiator support assembly includes a radiator support (16) which has a front portion (17). Although the radiator support appears to include a lower member, as shown in Figure 4, Maj's lower member does not bend forward from the radiator support, as recited in claim 1 of Applicant's present invention, or have a shape that curves forward, as recited in claim 5. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Maj fails to anticipate Applicant's claimed invention, and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Cheron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,547,317), applied by the Examiner to reject claim 2, relates to a specialized front wall of a motor vehicle. The front wall includes an overmoulded lower beam (8). The lower beam might be considered to curve downward, as shown in Figure 3, however it does not bend forward from the front wall, or have a shape that curves forward. Furthermore, Figure 4 appears to indicate that the lower beam 8 has a straight lower side, rather than the downwardly curved shape recited in claims 1 and 5.

As Cheron does not disclose a forwardly bent lower beam, much less suggest any advantage of bending forward the lower beam of a support assembly similar to Maj's support assembly, the combination of the Maj and Cheron references would not result in a lower member having a shape that is curved downwardly and bent or curved forwardly, as recited in claims 1 and 5.

In the Office Action's conclusion, the Examiner asserted that Reidelbach et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,194,763), Mayer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,358,152), Takanishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,597,198), and Funakoshi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No.

2002/0017806) teach a forwardly curved lower beam. However, none of these references, individually or in combination, suggest Applicants' claimed combination of features.

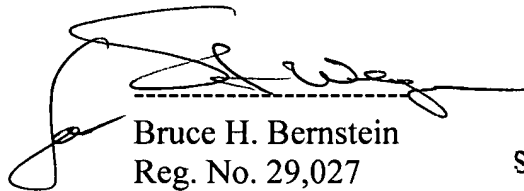
For at least the above reasons, claims 1 and 5 are submitted to be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2-4 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance at least in view of their dependence on claim 1.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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